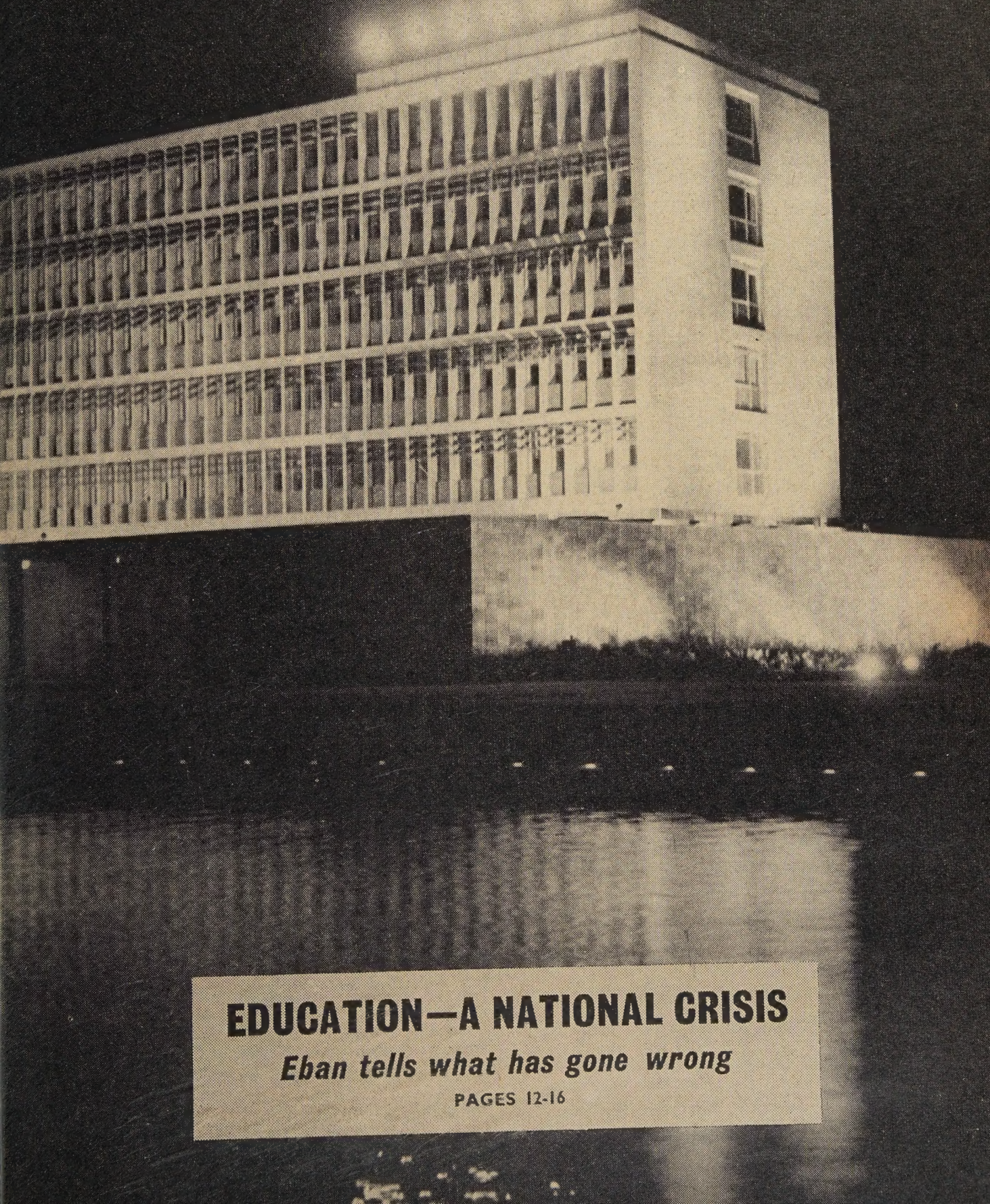


# JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

Vol. X, No. 7

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## **EDUCATION—A NATIONAL CRISIS**

*Eban tells what has gone wrong*

PAGES 12-16



## COMMENT

### BRAINS OR BUTTER ?

"The question today is how, within the short period separating ignorant childhood from ignorant manhood, education can cope with the explosive new dimensions which, if we survive so far, will shape our lives in the last quarter of the twentieth century." That is the question as Professor Barraclough has posed it for the western world; it is also the central problem which faces Israel, only—as Mr. Eban explains in the remarkable interview which begins on page 12—much more so. Israel's educational problem is in fact much more of "a race with catastrophe," as H. G. Wells used to put it. It may be an extreme formulation, but a timely one.

For the state of affairs calls for action, urgent action. Mr. Eban does not pull his punches and his warnings dare not be ignored. In a way, Israel, and the Israelis, have been too successful, too preoccupied and too busy to consider the implications of their neglect of the educational priorities. Perhaps too much attention has been paid to appearance and to buildings and not enough to the content of the programmes and projects which they were to house.

\* \* \*

For what the Minister of Education says here is that it is an illusion to assume that the million new immigrants will have been fully absorbed when they have all left the camps and have their own homes, and when their breadwinners have found work in Israel. In a way this has now happened, but it is, in terms of national capital, only the beginning, not the end, of absorption into the life of the new Israel. Cultural and intellectual absorption is just as, if not more, important; and this is shockingly lagging behind, as Mr. Eban's references to the educational share of the Jewish immigrants from Africa and Asia clearly illustrate.

But they are not the only ones who are lagging. The whole of Israel's secondary school system is utterly inadequate for her needs. For, unlike the West, to which Professor Barraclough addressed himself, Israel has an additional problem. She has not only to master the new age of science; she has also to master the inheritance of centuries of neglect of the soil and water of Israel, and she has to do this in the midst of hostile and threatening neighbours who outnumber her by something like twenty to one.

This is a state of affairs that exists now and has to be dealt with now. It is not a speculative threat of the future; it is a real danger today. It is, as Mr. Eban shows, a tremendous problem, and a costly one, second in

priority only to the security of the country. But it is not an impossible problem.

The immediate financial gap between what Mr. Eban has and what he needs to advance his Ministry's programme is comparatively small, between £5 millions and £6 millions would close his most urgent gap. But he cannot get it from the Government, which is committed to the hilt and which has taxed the Israelis to the point of punishment.

\* \* \*

But money, though important, is not the real crux of the problem. More important is the supply of teachers, and the quality of the teaching. This is today not specifically an Israeli problem; the British and the Americans are just as concerned with it, and their resources are greater than Israel's. Yet Israel's need, against the background of the Middle East, is more urgent, more immediate. It has to be dealt with now; it cannot wait much longer.

Mr. Eban shows clearly, however, that this is not a problem which Israel with her restricted sources of income and manpower can tackle without some outside help. The most immediate assistance could be given by the Jewish communities in Britain, France, the United States and Canada. They might consider the setting up of a Joint Education Authority to plan and direct this programme. The opening of the 1961 J.P.A. campaign in London this weekend provides a suitable opportunity for the consideration of this aspect of the absorption programme.

But the collaboration need not end with this. We have in recent years advanced rapidly in the field of mutual aid: military aid, economic aid, collaboration in health and agriculture. Where these programmes of mutual aid have been most successful is where they have been most specific and not too esoteric. In education, far too much has been left to the rather marginal activities of UNESCO, and not enough has been done in the way of more concentrated and direct forms of assistance.

\* \* \*

Israel needs now—just as Britain does—a crash programme for more qualified teachers, especially in French and English, as well as in Hebrew. Is this not something which could also be planned internationally between the British Council, the French Ministry of Education and President Kennedy's representative? It was suggested by THE TIMES the other day that university graduates should, on finishing their studies, volunteer for three or four years of "national service" as teachers. This might well be a beginning in which Israeli and Jewish graduates could set an example in fighting this battle for Israel. For it will decide not only the fate of the nation, but also its future character.



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**MIDDLE EAST**

**ZIONIST CONGRESS  
DECISIONS SHELVED**

**NO MONEY FOR NEW  
EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

*from our correspondent*

**Jerusalem:**

In an angry press conference at the Jewish Agency's headquarters last Sunday, the Agency's Treasurer, Dr. Dov Joseph, said that neither the fine speeches nor the resolutions of the last Zionist Congress on expanding the education programme and consolidating the settle-ments, could be implemented.

"Congress forgot to raise some £10 million-£15 million for this purpose", he added acidly. He could not base his budget on resolutions; he had to base it on real estimates of income. The Agency could not print money.

As things stood, the allocation for "Settlement", which was to be devoted to a consolidation of the shocking finan-cial situation of the settlements, had to be so severely curtailed as to cut out virtually all hope of consolidation. The total allocation for this purpose was re-duced by £13½ million, from £72 mil-lion to £58½ million.

**Third goes for loan repayments:** The plans for increased educational pro-grammes in Israel and in the Diaspora had to be abandoned, he said, because the necessary resources were not avail-able. He budgeted for the same expendi-ture as last year, as indeed he did for most other departments.

Only two increases in expenditure, as compared with last year, were noted by Dr. Joseph, but both were significant. The first, the largest single item in the budget apart from settlement, was the sum of £50 million set aside for interest payments and repayment of loans—almost a third of the entire expenditure of the Agency.

The second increase was the allocation for activities in the United States. This was upped some £400,000 to £1,060,000. The administration costs also increased by half a million pounds to £4 million despite the cut of 15 per cent in the staff of the Agency.

**Too much haste?** Joseph was very critical of the new arrangements made in the U.S. for the transmission of in-come from the United Jewish Appeal. This year, they would receive £25 mil-



HERZL OVER CONGRESS  
*Resolution—not resolutions*

lion less than last year, £63 million against £88 million last year. Consider-ing the general state of affairs, Joseph thought that the American directors were in too much haste to repay accumulated debts out of essential income.

The total budget approved by the Agency Executive balances at £184 mil-lion for the coming year as against £198 million for the current year. But it clearly raises many as yet unsolved problems of priority which the next meeting of the Zionist General Council will have to re-consider.

There are also signs here that, as a result of this very frank presentation of the situation by the Agency Treasurer, there will be a stronger move for re-forming the whole structure of the Agency than was apparent at Congress. For it looks as if not only the settle-ments are in urgent need of economic overhaul and consolidation, but that the same ap-plies no less to the whole economic structure of the Agency.

**MOSCOW TURNS  
ON KASSEM**

**INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN  
OF PROTEST**

Moscow, after months of hesitation, last week threw the big guns of inter-national communism into a massive campaign which seeks to halt General Kassem's attempts to liquidate commu-nist influence from every walk of Iraqi life.

The first hint of Moscow's decision to intervene on behalf of Iraq's hard-pressed communists came in a *Literatur-*



naya Gazeta article referring to "alarm-ing reports" of the "frame-up of Iraqi patriots." At the same time it revealed the text of a resolution adopted at a meeting in Berlin earlier this month of the World Federation of Trade Unions.

This spoke of "serious violations of trade union rights in Iraq," attacks on trades unions and democratic movements and the "illegal conviction" of members of these organisations. It demanded that the Iraqi Government free all imprisoned trade union workers and permit the unions to conduct their affairs without interference.

**Swedes and Czechs join in :** In follow-up action, the Swedish Communist Party sent a telegram to Premier Kassem expressing "shock" at the reported arrests and death sentences. The Czech newspaper *Rude Pravo* spoke of "extremely unjust actions of Iraqi justice . . . unlikely to be understood by the Iraqi public."

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee called on Kassem "to revoke the sentences on Iraqi patriots, to release the fighters of the national liberation movement languishing in prison and not to allow the bright ideals of the Iraqi revolution to be tarnished by the blood of its most loyal and persistent defenders."

The Union of Soviet Writers, in a protest telegram, spoke of the "ruthless torture of the cream of Iraqi youth." Behind this, said the Soviet writers, lay "the intrigues of black reaction, which aims at the restoration of the horrible regime which bore down heavily on the shoulders of the people in the era of imperialist slavery."

**Iraqi students back protest :** The All-Union Central Trade Union Council appealed to Kassem to quash "these unjust sentences" and to show "respect for trade union rights and democratic freedoms."

But Moscow's plum was the resolution adopted at a meeting of Iraqi students in the Soviet capital, supporting a telegram sent to Kassem by the Soviet Committee of Youth Organisations which called for "an end to the hounding of the socialist and progressive militants in Iraq."

A conference organised in Moscow at the weekend by 900 Iraqi students now studying in the Soviet Union appealed through its chairman, Muhammad Ali Al-Masta, to General Kassem to "release all our brothers, the students, young men, and those of independent thought, who are imprisoned, detained or sentenced to death because of their constant struggle to safeguard national independence and consolidate democracy."

**"Cease interference" :** The conference also demanded that "our national Government should cease interfering in the affairs of the General Federation of Students in the Iraqi Republic and cease discrimination against it."

So far, however, Moscow has kept this campaign on the level of an international communist protest. There has been nothing in the nature of direct governmental representations. The Kremlin seems to be following the same pattern



HAPPY U.N. TEAM

*Now all the uncles and cousins will also get jobs*

adopted during the Cairo campaign against Egyptian communists: the use of every medium of public protest, while doing nothing to threaten relations at the governmental and economic level.

Thus, while Moscow was trumpeting communist criticisms of Kassem at the weekend, in Baghdad the Soviet Deputy Chairman of the Committee for National Planning, Malakhov, was putting the final touches to implementation agreements covering a number of Soviet projects in Iraq.

**Training in Cairo :** One of these is the construction of a 2,000 kilowatt nuclear reactor. Three Iraqi experts are to go to Cairo for training by Russian experts already engaged on the construction of a nuclear reactor for President Nasser. The Russians, obviously, are determined to do nothing that will weaken their economic foot-hold in the Iraqi Republic.

## U.A.R.

### EGYPT PACKS ITS MINISTRIES

#### "JOBS FOR EVERYONE" REGARDLESS OF ABILITY

*from our special Middle East correspondent, Robert Gee*

In what appears to be an act of administrative madness, the Egyptian Executive Council has this week ordered that the 10,000 vacant positions in Government service should be filled "within the next few days," regardless of the abilities, or lack of them, of the appointees.

It is only a week ago since Hamdi Ibrahim, Director of Establishments, told the Executive Council that the reason why a number of government posts had been left vacant was that "there have been no suitable candidates." This, he said, applied particularly to vacancies in the higher technical and administrative scales.

Now, waving aside such considerations as entrance examinations and medical tests, the Executive Council has decided to fill the posts regardless of ability or fitness.

**Technicians for ten years :** Under pressure from President Nasser, concerned that his hastily planned development projects will fail to be implemented through lack of technicians and administrators, Ministries will be allowed to engage their staff members without requiring them to sit for the civil service examination.

There is no indication in the public record of the Council's meeting that anybody stopped to ask what effect the mass employment of unsuitable candidates would have on the country's development plans. The clue to this almost panic decision seems to lie in the constantly repeated phrase used by Council officials: "... in pursuance of President Gamal Abdel Nasser's instructions."

### NASSER HITS SYRIANS WHERE IT HURTS

#### ALL-OUT EFFORT FOR EGYPTIANISATION

By his decree of last week restricting all private dealings by Syrians in foreign currency, President Nasser has gambled on achieving two ends towards which he has been desperately groping for the past couple of years:

The economic defeat of Syrian op-



ponents of unification whose political annihilation he was unable to contrive; and

The *de facto* inclusion of the Northern Region within the United Arab Republic.

Tutored by the French, Syrian bankers and businessmen established a tradition of free trading which, had they been left to the management of their own affairs, would have one day brought Damascus to a situation in the Arab world where she could have challenged the position of Beirut as the banker of the Middle East.

**Reeling blow :** With this free trade tradition went a liberal political outlook favourable to all and any trend which did not seem to threaten the business community. Both this tradition and outlook suffered a reeling blow with the act of unification which brought Egyptian administrators and Egyptian theories of social democracy into the administration of Syria.

In the years since unification, Syrian businessmen have been fighting a rear guard action to safeguard their position. When they have seen an opportunity of pillaging the national economy, they have taken it, regarding it not as an act of treason, but as a manifestation of the Syrian spirit of independence.

And, as the Egyptian screw has tightened and the pressure on the economy become persistent, they have pulled out as large a part of their assets as possible and deposited them for safe keeping in the banks of Beirut and of Switzerland.

**Must be sold to government :** It is this last stronghold which is now under siege by President Nasser. His decree last week required not only that Syrian banks reveal in every detail foreign currency accounts held by them for local residents, but also that residents must declare to the government any holdings of foreign currency they might have outside of the country.

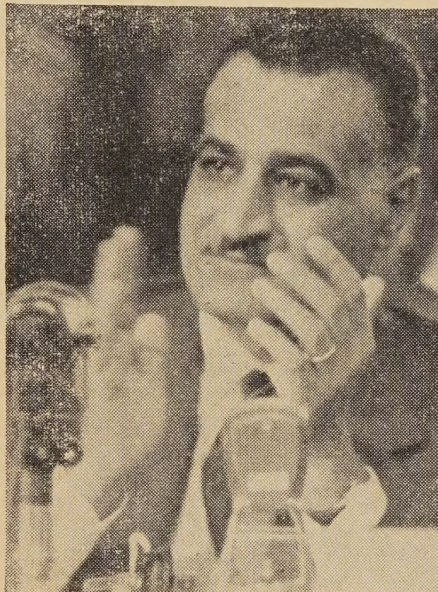
Furthermore, all holders of foreign currency accounts, whether in Syrian banks or overseas banks, must offer this currency for sale to the government, together with any income received from investments abroad. To forestall the quick thinkers, Nasser's economists did a bit of quick thinking of their own: it is forbidden for any investor in foreign stocks to forgo his income.

A complete ban has been put on the disposal of foreign currency holdings other than to the government. Foreign currency derived from exports must similarly be sold to the government at rates to be published.

**What about the £235m. ?** Nasser's decision came after days of consultation in Cairo with his senior advisers and after

frantic comings and goings by Syrian region ministers between Damascus and Cairo. The official reason being put about by the authorities for the Presidential decree is that Syrian development projects—"intended for the benefit of all the people"—are running short of cash, mainly because of the greed of financial speculators and businessmen more concerned to feather their own nests.

The Syrian banking and business community, however, laughs grimly at Nasser's



MASTER OF SYRIA  
Now the gloves are off

concern for the Syrian economy. If he was so concerned, they point out, then he might have made a start by returning the £235 million in foreign currency borrowed two years ago from the national funds. He might also have arranged to pay for imports from Syria other than with Egyptian currency or Egyptian goods, while accepting Syrian payment for American wheat in local currency and not insisting on dollars. (These dollars, incidentally, were used for Egypt's own purposes. The Americans took payment in Egyptian pounds).

They might also have mentioned the drain being put on the Syrian economy by massive arms purchases from the Soviet Union and Cairo's insistence on the implementation of development projects without proper planning and preparation. Only last week, Nasser announced a series of new development projects to be completed within four or five years.

**Bank governor quits :** Despite denials from Cairo, Syrians are convinced that Nasser's immediate aim is the creation of a unified currency for both Egypt and Syria and, through the manipulation of

this currency, the not too gradual extinction of remaining Syrian private enterprise. This would also mean the liquidation of those who practise it and, consequently, the disappearance of the best financed circle of opposition to Egyptianisation.

Since the announcement of the President's foreign currency decree, the internal propaganda organisations have been doing their best to justify the measures. But nothing can disguise the distress of Damascus's commercial centre. The city's money-changers have already paid a call on Executive Minister of the Economy Hosny el Sawaf to plead for their livelihoods. The governor of the Syrian Central Bank anticipated the decree by handing in his resignation.

**British example cited :** The way the measure is being justified is interesting. The economic editor of the officially controlled *Middle East News Agency* pointed out that all the west European countries had foreign currency exchange controls. "In certain countries, such as the United Kingdom, control is so strict that British subjects leaving the country are only allowed to take with them foreign currencies of a very small amount to cover the essentials required for their travel."

Businessmen and traders in the main Syrian centres have threatened to meet the Egyptianisation of the Syrian economy by raising their prices on commodities sold on the local market, thus further frustrating Cairo's attempts to put their northern domain in order. But there was a warning at the end of last week in the form of an official "statement to the people."

A very small number of citizens, said the statement, had recently exploited the rise in prices of foreign currency by raising the prices of many goods essential for the people's subsistence. There was no justification for these rising prices; "other than the desire to get rich at the expense of poor citizens, including workers, peasants, officials and merchants."

**Punishment warning :** The statement warned that any unjustified rise in prices would be "punished severely." The "people's interest is paramount and the advancement of society cannot be realised, except by striking the hands of offenders and exploiters."

The fact that Nasser decided to go ahead with his foreign currency decree, despite the advice of the best Syrian economic brains, and his stated determination to strike hard at anyone standing in his way, clearly indicates that the biggest battle for the heart of Syria has now begun. It is one which he cannot afford to lose.



# ISRAEL

## THREE ALTERNATIVES FOR MAPAI

### COALITION PARTNERS PUT ON THE SQUEEZE

*from our own correspondents*

#### Jerusalem :

Whereas the "Lavon Affair" made its main impact by the fact of its novelty, the Cabinet crisis, in the midst of which we now find ourselves, is a manifestation we have all experienced in the past thirteen years and is something which we, politicians, citizens and newspapermen alike, feel able to cope with. It has no hidden elements, no mystery.

What dark shadows are still cast around us stem from the aftermath of the Lavon affair—the Progressives' refusal to enter a new Cabinet under Ben-Gurion's leadership because of the Premier's supposed insult to Rosen, Herut's demand for an inquiry into Lavon's allegation that all the facts of the 1954 "security mishap" were known in 1955 and the undercurrent of concern that we have not yet heard the end of it all.

Lavon himself showed surprising restraint at last Thursday's meeting of the Histadrut Executive Council which voted 58-46 for the acceptance of his resignation. All the Mapai members of the Executive, with the exception of Lavon himself who did not vote, favoured acceptance of his resignation. Those who voted against included the representatives of Ahdut Avoda (18), Mapam (15), the United Liberal group (10) and the Communists (3).

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"DEMOCRACY THREATENED"—BUT BY WHOM?

*Angry scenes during a Tel Aviv demonstration in support of Lavon*

**Monopoly of justice :** In fact, Lavon was one of the few who did show restraint. The meeting was one of the noisiest and angriest in the often stormy history of the Histadrut, and Lavon himself was forced at one point to appeal to the minority opposition, which supported him, to behave itself.

He was resigning, said Lavon, "because I am unable to continue at my post following the decision of the Mapai Central Committee on February 6." But he departed, he said, secure in the knowledge that the masses of workers had not deserted him and did not bear responsibility for this decision. Indeed, the day's vote, he stated, proved that "the vast majority" of organised labour opposed his being "ousted" and favoured his continuation in Histadrut office.

He defended his course of action over recent months and said that anybody who claimed there had been no need to bring to light the "weaknesses" which had been revealed in Israel's public life, "is either mistaken or wilfully misleading others." Justice, he claimed, had emerged on his side during every stage of the inquiry. He hoped that, one day, a historian with all the facts at his disposal would decide whose conduct had hurt the State.

**"Dangerous trends" :** As for relations between the State and the Histadrut, he maintained his view that they had to be equal partners. There were, he alleged, "certain circles" which fostered "dangerous trends" seeking to reduce the Histadrut to the status of a narrow trades union organisation. In conclusion, Lavon com-

mented that the fate and future of the Histadrut were not dependent upon any one individual. "God help any society whose fate and future depend on one single person."

## WEIGHING ELECTION RISKS

With the Lavon vote out of the way, Mapai girded itself for the usual rounds of sparring with the political parties before settling down in comfortable coalition. But they were in for a rude shock. Preliminary discussions revealed that the alternatives before them boiled down to a broad coalition without Ben-Gurion, a narrow coalition with him—or the dissolution of the Knesset and the holding of new elections.

In the first round of discussions, the other parties tried to dictate to Mapai which Ministers it should put forward for which posts. Ahdut Avoda agreed to enter into a coalition with Mapai, provided the government was not headed by Ben-Gurion. Ahdut Avoda secretary Israel Bar-Yehuda went one step further when he stated that his party would not agree to a Minister of Agriculture who advocated efficiency dismissals (meaning Dayan).

A similar stand was taken by Mapam when its representatives met with President Ben-Zvi. And the Progressives accepted Rosen's plea that he, as chairman of the ill-fated Committee of Seven, could not be expected to enter a govern-



ment led by Ben-Gurion. They did not try to dictate to Mapai whom it should nominate, but stated merely that they were not available at this time. When Mapai made it clear that it insisted on Ben-Gurion's leadership, Mapam and Ahdut Avoda declared themselves in favour of elections.

**Majority of four:** If these three parties were to persist in their present attitudes, Ben-Gurion would have to fall back on a narrow coalition of Mapai, the Mizrahi and Poale Agudat Israel. Including the votes of the five Arab Knesset Members, nominally Mapai supporters, this would give him a majority of only four votes. No government has, so far, had to rely on the Arab Members for its majority.

Ben-Gurion himself has repeatedly proposed that Eshkol, Sharett or even Lavon should head the next Cabinet. A large majority of his party disagrees, but the alternative—elections—is considered still worse. If elections are forced now on a divided Mapai, even the optimists predict a loss of at least seven seats.

Within Mapai, partisans of this or that approach have been trying to convince their fellows of the wrongness of their ways, but more often than not the result has been a heightening of the disagreement. One of the main facts to emerge from these internal discussions is the failure of Lavon's opponents to get their arguments across.

**Weakness of the "young":** The party's "young" have proved to be an ideological conception rather than a coherent and organised group. Their reluctance to become a group has, in the event, turned out to be their weakness. There was no marshalling of facts, no lobbying, no overall presentation of their views. Even now they are working only vaguely toward a general direction.

Giora Josephtal met with a group of university professors to explain and defend his views, but after only a few minutes of discussion in which he outlined his ideas of government—a pyramid in which each official had his well-defined place—the meeting broke up in angry disagreement.

Dayan, accompanied by Ahuvia Malkin and Gad Yakobi, his two closest aides, fared little better in an exchange with Dan Horowitz, son of Israel Bank governor David Horowitz, Aron Kidan, spokesman for Levi Eshkol, Uri Tal, an assistant in the Department of History at the Hebrew University, and several others.

**Lesson from Lavon:** The lesson which emerged from all these encounters was one which Lavon had taught them: if you are going into battle, soften up the enemy before you declare war.

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## "SHAPIRO FOR PREMIER"

Mapai has not been the only party engaged in introspection. The Mizrahi, too, has been having its internal discussions. There are some of its members who are none too happy about sharing the responsibilities of a narrow coalition with Mapai and Poale Agudat Israel. The Mapai negotiating team of Eshkol, Josephthal and Govrin is reported to have promised the Mizrahi the Ministry for Religious Affairs in addition to the two portfolios now held by them.

Herut, in its anti-Mapai machinations, has, however, gone one better. In a meeting with Mizrahi leader Moshe Shapiro, Menachem Beigin is reported to have proposed a renewal of the broad anti-Mapai front and, as an indication of his goodwill, to have promised his support for a government led by Shapiro.

The Mizrahi, however, is more likely to rejoin Mapai in the belief that the other hesitant coalition partners will come in, too, once the government is back in the saddle. The Progressives are bound to be influenced by the fact that Mrs. Meir and Pinhas Sapir, two strong Lavon supporters, have agreed to re-join Ben-Gurion.

## ARRESTS OF MOROCCAN JEWS CONTINUE

### SHRAGAI'S INDICTMENT

*from our own correspondent*

#### Jerusalem :

A charge that the Moroccan authorities appeared to be fanning the flames of



AN EYE ON FAR-AWAY PLACES?  
*Ben-Gurion suggested a successor, the party said "No"*

anti-Semitism among the population of that country, was made last week by Jewish Agency Immigration Department head S. Z. Shragai.

Even now, stated Shragai, the arrests of Jews continued while the authorities advanced the most absurd pretexts for their anti-Jewish measures. The claim that mass arrests of Jews had to be made before Nasser's arrival in Casablanca be-

cause the Jews were preparing demonstrations, were baseless, said Shragai, pointing out that this explanation had since been superseded by another that "an opposition group had instigated" the brutalities against Jews.

But even if all this were true, said Shragai, it did not justify the brutal treatment of Jews by the Moroccan police. If it was the intention of the police to forestall Jewish demonstrations, how did they explain the indiscriminate arrests of any Jews they could find. Five trucks drove through the streets of the city, said Shragai, and thirty Jews were packed into each, taken to jail, beaten up and forced to lie one on top of the other.

**Responsibility of the King :** To these facts had to be added the mass dismissals of Jewish workers. While the authorities denied that this had happened, the truth could be guessed from the protest against these dismissals published by a group of trade unions. Shragai also quoted from a reader's letter published in the newspaper *el Bayat* which called for the liquidation of all Jews, as Hitler had sought. The editors appended the comment that "unfortunately," such a solution was not possible.

While he did not want to say that the King and the Crown Prince approved of these anti-Jewish measures, said Shragai, this did not absolve them from responsibility.

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# IN THE NEWS

## EBAN'S BOMBSHELL

WHEN I USED to work for Aneurin Bevan, he often warned me against "dead subjects" which it was dangerous for a journalist—or a politician—to touch. It was quite an irrational state of affairs, but these topics invariably produced a state of boredom and indifference in the general public. "Coal," he would say, was one of these forbidden subjects; "India" was another. And he might well have added "education" as a third. But I hope that readers will overcome any inclination to pass over the interview with Abba Eban which appears on page 12. For it is probably the first really important policy declaration made by any Israeli Minister of Education.

It is also much more than that. Eban has taken the education bull by its horns and thrown it in an almost sensational manner; and as if to show his many colleagues and opponents who have so consistently misjudged his determination, he lands a few more well-aimed kicks at the educational establishment. The statistics he gives about higher education are pretty shattering. The achievement of the last decade is tremendous, but—as Eban shows—it is nothing like enough. And in education, more than in any other field, one has to look forward not back.

### ENORMOUS JOB TO DO

The number of graduates from secondary schools and from the universities is far too small. The whole educational system is lop-sided and needs overhauling. It has become too self-centred, too much concentrated on Hebrew and Jews ("a monolingual culture," Eban calls it). This adds to Israel's cultural isolation. But Eban is not concerned only with the outward forms of teaching. The content also needs reconsideration. Hebrew and Jewish teaching must become more universal and less national in outlook. However, these are merely some of the revolutionary opinions which Eban expresses here. There is the scathing indictment of past educational omissions, especially at the centres of higher learning, in encour-

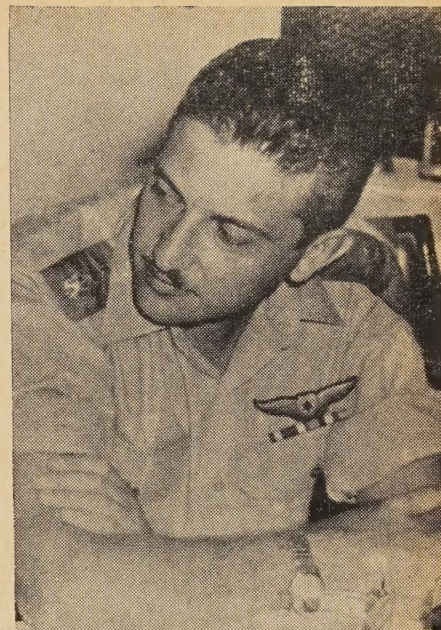
aging oriental Jews. The figures of school attendance for oriental Jews which Eban gives speak for themselves.

But without a doubt, Eban's most important contribution is his emphasis on the connection between Israel and the Diaspora in this field. There is an enormous job to be done here—and done urgently. The Eban interview should not only be read, it should be studied and considered as dealing with a major problem which concerns Anglo-Jewry and American Jewry no less than the Israelis.

## THE OTHER WEIZMANN

THE GUEST OF HONOUR at Saturday night's launching of the 1961 J.P.A. campaign will be the Commanding Officer of the Israel Air Force, Major-General Ezer Weizmann. I am looking forward to the occasion with interest and with not a little curiosity. For I have met Ezer Weizmann on many occasions, and his outlook and his machine-gun manner of conveying it should be a novel and refreshing experience for the thousand guests at the Grosvenor House banquet. At 35, Weizmann is rated as a veteran of two wars. For he belonged to the first of the few in 1948 and he still belongs among the few air commanders who prefer to lead their men from the air rather than from the chair.

There is something else about Ezer Weizmann which must be considered as something of a family characteristic (he is a nephew of Israel's first President and brother-in-law of Moshe Dayan). He is not easily intimidated or depressed by odds. And this is as true today as it was in 1948 or 1956. He knows what flying and maintaining the new air force means—and costs. He knows how much help the Egyptians have had from the Russians. But he is still convinced that his air force has the measure of the Egyptians despite all their fine new equipment. This is not loud-mouthed boasting; that is not in Ezer Weizmann's character. It springs from a deep appreciation of what modern aerial warfare means in terms of trained and skilled manpower



EZER WEIZMANN  
*More expensive than bayonets*

and determination. And when he makes the balance of what he has and what the others have, he is not intimidated. But, as he will no doubt tell his audience, the trouble with a modern air force is that you can no more sit on it (even if you can sit on it) than you can sit on bayonets. And the renewal of modern planes is a much more costly business than bayonets—or education. And Israel cannot afford not to keep up with the Nassers.

## JUST THE MAN FOR MALI

ONE OF the most interesting of the Foreign Ministry appointments announced last week is that of Raphael Ben-Shalom as Israel's first Ambassador to Left-inclined Mali. Ben-Shalom is a veteran member of a Mapam kibbutz who had his first experience of the diplomatic world while serving under Ehud Avriel at the Israel Embassy in Czechoslovakia immediately after the establishment of the State. Ben-Shalom's politics and his kibbutz experience should make him a popular figure in Bamako, as Malian leaders have already shown a keen interest in adopting the kibbutz system. Changes in Europe include the appoint-

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ment of A. Chelouche, present head of the West European Division, as Minister in Belgrade. He will be replaced in Jerusalem by Shmuel Bendor, who has just completed two difficult years of service in Rumania. Another departmental chief being given a change of view is Amnon Bartur, head of the Economic Division, who is taking over the Foreign Ministry's U.N. Liaison Office in Geneva. From there, he will direct and co-ordinate Israel's economic activity in Europe, an increasingly important task in view of Israel's growing concern with its seeming isolation from the European Common Market and the "Seven."

## THEY CHANGED THEIR SUBJECT

ONE OF THE FIRST ZIONISTS I ever met was Dr. Emmanuel Olsvanger, who died in Jerusalem last week at the age of 72. He belonged to that generation and type which the modern Israeli, or Anglo-Jew for that matter, found simply puzzling, but who contributed more to the common pool of culture than a whole school of others. He was a fascinating linguist, fluent in a dozen languages including Sanskrit, Latin and Greek—and Japanese. His translations into Hebrew include the Sanskrit *Bhagavadgita*, Dante's *Divine Comedy* from the Italian, Goethe's poems from the German, and Boccaccio's *Decameron* from the original. He worked for the Jewish National Fund but he was never confined by organisational or institutional frontiers. He discovered the scattered Jewish communities in India, and had a more varied collection of the classic Yiddish jokes than any other man living—except possibly Myer Weisgal. But the best story of all concerned him and his old friend, the late Dr. Senator, Rector of the Hebrew University. Both Olsvanger and Senator were famous for their capacity for brooding silence. One day, they had been drinking coffee in utter silence in the Vienna Café in Jerusalem for close on two hours. Then Olsvanger spoke. "Shall we change the subject," he said in his deep bass, and sank once more into silent contemplation. He also had his dislikes. One was modern poetry. He was on one occasion invited to address the Be'eri Club, a highbrow society in Jerusalem. There he asked permission to read to them (he had a fine declamatory style) one of the poems from a current literary magazine which had struck him as exceptionally beautiful. He declaimed it amidst silent appreciation. When he finished, he thanked his audience for their attention and added: "I have just read this poem backwards." There should be more laughter in heaven now.

## A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE . . .

### THE "SPECTATOR" SUPPLIES THE MISSING LINK

I knew it all along. There was only one thing missing in the whole Lavon affair—dear Erskine Childers. And now, like another *Sunday Telegraph*, he has filled the gap. You want to know what all the Lavon mystery was about; the one that Sharett's Committee of Two, and Ben-Gurion's Committee of Seven, and the Attorney General, and the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee, all failed to establish clearly?

Why had no one bothered to ask Erskine Childers of the *Spectator*? He knew it all along. And last Friday, he told us the real truth. With the same thoroughness as that with which he had reconstructed the Suez ultimatum on a previous occasion, he now produced the real time-table and pattern of the Lavon affair.

#### A "two-stage operation"

To begin with, he rightly put the whole business in its proper international setting. The Israeli strategists, he says, were alarmed by the signing of the British evacuation agreement in the summer of 1954 and, at the end of September, Antony Nutting arrived in Cairo for the final ceremonies. This was the moment chosen by the Israelis, according to Childers, to unfold their two-stage operation against the Anglo-Egyptian evacuation agreement.

First, the Israeli ship, *Bat Galim*, arrived to seek transit through the Canal, and then began the diversionary operation of the so-called Israeli spy-ring "trying to sabotage British and American consular offices". But why should the Israelis now be so concerned with what had happened then, asks Childers.

And he, of course, answers himself. The reason is that Ben-Gurion "suddenly and summarily replaced" Lavon, launched the Gaza attack, prepared to oust Sharett and launched the Suez attack. This was all part of the overall plan, and that is why the Israelis are so anxious to hide the secret of 1954.

#### Two things wrong

It is an intriguing story, and in some ways even a plausible one. There are, unfortunately, only two things wrong with it. The time-table and the facts.

Erskine Childers is quite right to draw attention to the setting of the events, but he should have looked at the early months of 1954, not at the late summer and autumn. For it became clear at the beginning of that year that the British

were preparing to evacuate. Sharett had warned repeatedly of the consequences.

In fact, it was Sharett and not the army who had been most vocal on this subject. Already in April 1953, Sharett had, in a speech in Washington, warned that Israel would not be ignored in the changing strategic conditions which would follow a British withdrawal. He warned again in March 1954, and once more in August.

"The British were acting as if Israel did not exist", he said. There was something else which Childers did not sketch into the background. Between March and June 1954, there was a constant series of raids into Israel—the attack on the bus from Beersheba in which eleven passengers were killed, and almost daily incidents which took their toll of life. The Egyptians had also closed the Gulf of Akaba to all shipping going to Elath; they stationed two destroyers at the mouth of the Gulf.

#### What really happened

But now let us follow the chain of events as it really happened, and we can usefully refer here to the two Surveys for 1954 and for 1955-1956 which have been published by Chatham House.\* They are invaluable in providing the necessary perspective—especially for the 1954 situation.

What emerges, then, is that the alleged Israeli sabotage action, which Childers has conveniently placed to coincide with Nutting's arrival in Cairo and, which, he says, was designed to send Nutting back discomfited to London, did not take place in October, as Childers claims. The arrests of this group had taken place early in June. This rather confounds Mr. Childers' conclusions which were all based on the calculated timing of this action, which he seems to have miscalculated.

But much more serious is his purely imaginary account of Ben-Gurion's re-

\* SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 1954, by Coral Bell, 329 pp., index (*Oxford*) 45s.

SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS 1955-1956, by Geoffrey Barraclough and Rachel Wall, 327 pp., index (*Oxford*) 50s. Middle Eastern affairs are covered until November 1956, but the Suez and Sinai crisis only until July and the nationalisation of the Suez Canal. This volume shows some of the marks of being a second attempt.

The first apparently did not suit Chatham House.





GOLDA MEIR  
A visit to Sde Boker

turn to office, six years ago this weekend, after Lavon had resigned the Ministry of Defence. I find now that I had kept very detailed diary notes of what actually took place at the time, and this is a very precise reconstruction of what Childers calls Ben-Gurion's summary replacement of Lavon, which he implies was all part of the Ben-Gurion conspiracy.

#### Not made public

Lavon had sent his resignation to Prime Minister Sharett on February 2, 1955, but it had not been made public. Sharett discussed it with his colleagues and had made up his mind to accept it when he was ready with Lavon's successor. He sounded out Shaul Avigur, who had been suggested by Ben-Gurion, and who was one of the most respected leaders from the days of the underground. Avigur would not accept an official post. Sharett also sounded Pinhas Sapir, a former Director-General of the Defence Ministry.

Next Eshkol, Shaul Avigur and Sharett himself had gone to Sde Boker to persuade Ben-Gurion to take the post, but he refused. On Tuesday, February 15, Sharett sent his Director-General to Ben-Gurion to ask him once more to take over the Defence Ministry. Ben-Gurion again refused. Then, Mrs. Meir, who could always get Ben-Gurion to listen to her arguments, went down to Sde Boker. She was no more successful in her mission than the rest.

Now comes the critical day, February 17, 1955. *Lamerhav*, the organ of the activist Ahdut Avoda party, had on the previous day leaked a report that Lavon

had appeared before a special committee of inquiry appointed by the Prime Minister. Sharett concluded that the leak could have come only from Lavon, and that the hour for action had come.

#### One man's decision

Therefore, at 6.30 a.m. on the morning of Thursday, February 17, he sent Ben-Gurion's former Military Secretary, Colonel Nehemia Argov, to Sde Boker to ask Ben-Gurion what he should do about this latest development. Ben-Gurion told Colonel Argov that he had already given his private opinion to Sharett: this was one case in which only the Prime Minister could take a decision.

Argov returned to Jerusalem and told Sharett what Ben-Gurion had said (although Ben-Gurion had asked him not to). Sharett's answer to Argov was that he had already made up his mind. But there was no longer any question, at that time, of asking Ben-Gurion again to take over. His decision seemed irrevocable, and it was accepted as such.

Within hours of Argov's return, Lavon announced publicly that he had resigned on February 2; and soon afterwards Sharett issued a statement to say that he had accepted the resignation of the Minister of Defence. There was still no thought of Ben-Gurion coming back. Even his closest associates did not think he would change his mind.

Later that same Thursday afternoon, the senior members of Mapai met to consider the situation. Again, the names of Shaul Avigur and Pinhas Sapir were considered, and then the much respected Speaker of the Knesset, Yosef Sprinzak, intervened. He said that only one man could restore the morale of the army which had been badly shaken by recent events, more especially in its higher echelons.

#### Ben-Gurion's turn-about

This convinced Ben-Gurion that it was the future of the Army that was at stake, and led to his complete turn-about, utterly disconcerting his intimates, who had thought they knew what he would do. He came back to the Ministry of Defence. Sharett offered him the Premiership, but Ben-Gurion refused it.

In view of the sinister significance which has been attributed to Ben-Gurion's return to the Ministry in February 1955, it might be useful to recall the actual and not the imaginary circumstances under which the recall of the former Premier took place.

Jon Kimche

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# EDUCATING A NATION

## WHAT HAS GONE WRONG ?

### AN INTERVIEW WITH ABBA EBAN, ISRAEL MINISTER OF EDUCATION

*Twelve years ago, there were 82,000 children in Israeli kindergartens and primary schools. Today there are 450,000. Into this expansion has gone most of Israel's educational effort. In providing the means of education, the meaning of education has been overlooked. Not only are Israelis in danger of losing touch with the world outside, they are also threatened with a breakdown in communication between each other. In an exclusive interview with the JEWISH OBSERVER, Abba Eban takes stock of the problem and outlines a plan for action.*

*What are your chief problems as Minister of Education and Culture?*

EBAN: Nearly 600,000 pupils and students; a million parents; 20,000 teachers; and the limitations of the Budget. All our other problems are functions of these.

The figures that I have quoted are very significant. They prove that education is the most intense pursuit of the Israel people. No other concern—not even security—impinges so constantly on so many homes. To sit in this chair is to feel the pulse of our nation's future. The more so in view of the centralised nature of our education system. In no country except, perhaps, in France, does the law invest the Minister with such exclusive responsibility for determining the educational content and method.

*Can you give me a more detailed breakdown of the Ministry's responsibilities?*

EBAN: The kindergartens and primary schools, with 450,000 pupils from 5 to 14 years of age, are under the Ministry's sole jurisdiction. This applies both to State schools and State religious schools. The secondary, agricultural and tech-



EDUCATION MINISTER EBAN  
*Poised between promise and danger*

nical schools with 70,000 pupils from 14 to 18 are under our academic charge, even though local authorities and private foundations sometimes have administrative responsibility.

The Minister of Education and Culture also presides over the Council of Higher Education which has functions affecting the Hebrew University, the Technion, the Weizmann Institute of Science, and the Tel Aviv University.

Arab education presents us with special problems. The Ministry is also active in adult education where our main achievement is the massive inculcation of the Hebrew language into a varied immigrant community.

The Minister of Education and Culture is responsible for the Department of Antiquities: for Yad Vashem (the research institute on the Jewish holocaust); and for the Gadna Youth movement.

Finally, as Minister of Culture I am responsible for the Fine Arts Council and for the Government's support of litera-

ture, music, art, drama and folk-lore.

I stress the vastness of this "empire", both because it is little understood abroad, and because it helps to underline the main task of the Minister—the definition of priorities.

#### Grave urgencies at every level

*Have you developed a clear idea of the educational priorities for the next few years?*

EBAN: There are grave urgencies at every level of the educational pyramid. In the first decade, the Ministry concentrated most of its efforts on the primary educational system. There were 82,000 pupils in the primary schools and kindergartens in 1948. There are 450,000 today. This expansion was a staggering achievement. It is still going on, although at a lesser rate. Our problems now are, firstly, the improvement of teaching qualifications—a task that was not always feasible during the years of expansion; secondly, the eradication of the backwardness affecting children from squalid, crowded homes; and, thirdly, the scrutiny of the curriculum, which does not seem always to have kept pace with educational developments in the broader world.

In the post-primary schools, we have even more fundamental and dynamic tasks ahead. The State must enter this field with greater purposefulness than before. Professor Lewis in his address to the Rehovot Conference defined secondary rather than primary or higher education as the central issue for new states. We are no exception to this rule. This year, for the first time, the Israel Minister of Education has all the secondary, agricultural and vocational schools under his academic control. (Until 1960 the Minister of Agriculture and Labour had charge of the agricultural and vocational schools).

I interpret this as an educational opportunity, not merely as an organisational change. The reform of the cur-

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riculum and the control of timing of specialisations are fascinating tasks. It is in the problems of post-primary education that I have a sense of seeing the Jewish people's historical future in a balance, poised between promise and danger.

The same is true of our higher education and scientific research. Here the Jewish Diaspora has played a decisive role. The result is that we have institutions at Jerusalem, Rehovot and Haifa which reflect a broader universality of spirit and a more abundant academic opportunity than our community here could ever have provided with its own resources.

I believe that our universities and research institutes must breathe a universal air. They need arenas transcending Israel's frontiers. We find such arenas in our world Jewish connections; in our links with western science and learning; and in our international academic activity, especially in relation to African and Asian states.

You will notice that the higher educational network is expanding. Preliminary recognition has been given to Tel Aviv and Bar-Ilan universities. Israel now has a student population of 12,000 as against 2,000 or less in 1948.

#### **No abode for soulless technocrats**

*Do you agree with the Ministry of Labour's opinion that too many students are going in for general humanistic education and too few to agricultural and vocational schools; and that there is an element of snobbery in the insistence on humanistic education?*

EBAN: I don't know if that is an accurate representation of my colleague's views. In any case I do not regard educational policy as a function of the labour market. The fact that the labour market *today* may seem to require fewer men and women with high levels of general education will not prevent me from insisting on a broader stream of graduates from general secondary schools.

I have several reasons for saying this: In the first place, the Ministry of Education's responsibility is to the citizen's mind and spirit, not to his employer or his labour exchange. A citizen's rights are not confined to the political sphere alone. His rights have something to do with his intellectual potentiality, with the stretching power of his spirit and talent. We mutilate a man's rights when we suppress the development of anything



SPECIALISTS AT 12?  
*Tomorrow has different demands*

within him capable of creative growth. The labour market must not be a Procrustean bed on which any extra quality of mind must be lopped off in advance. It is for education to stretch the labour market, rather than for the labour market to stunt education.

Moreover, the labour opportunities of today are but a shadow of tomorrow's needs. We are destined to live in a society in which all productive tasks in agriculture, industry, management and, of course, in military defence and governmental organisation will require mounting standards of knowledge, judgment and human capacity. We do not need to create little specialists at the age of 12. We need men and women of flexible, versatile minds with a pattern of thought

enabling them to achieve some measure of dominion over experience. It matters little whether you train their intellectual muscles on languages or sciences or anything else. A trained mind is infinitely adaptable. Such people can be taught specialised skills in a short time. We can have no precise concept today of what the processes of work will be after another decade of automation and high energy. It may seem paradoxical—but the technological revolution is an argument for later not earlier specialisation.

I also reject any equation of humanistic knowledge with snobbery. It is in the humanities that we find the distilled wisdom and insight of all preceding centuries. Aesthetic and moral values are inseparably bound up together. Education must bring a man into contact with the whole range and texture of human life—all that man does and is and would be as an individual being: his desires and hopes and joys and fears and sufferings and defeats and victories; and, along with that, all that he experiences as one of a family, of a community, of a nation and of the human race.

Israel, in particular, is the heir and should be the author of new human insights. This is our vocation, and, I believe, our destiny. We should not become the abode of soulless technocrats, but, rather, in Balfour's shining phrase: "A radiant nurse of the sciences and the arts."

I do not know how this can be achieved with only about 3,000 students graduating from secondary schools this year, and about 2,000 matriculating. It is absurd to fear that this is too much. The problem is that of controlling the stream

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into the three post-elementary channels—humanistic, technical and agricultural. A disquieting number of 14-year-olds abandon or change their educational course in a year or two without completing a systematic process of education. But let us understand that we have too little and not too much of all sorts of education, including general humanistic education at a secondary level. A man's education is not a mere function of his job. He should carry more spiritual cargo than his employment may require—not less. Rabbi Akiva did not need all his learning in order to succeed as a cobbler.

### In search of scientific humanism

*Does your thinking apply to a humanistic emphasis in higher education as well?*

EBAN: The central educational question of our times is that of equilibrium between two worlds of contemplation which have too long been regarded as separate. I have said enough since I came to the Weizmann Institute to be free from any charge of underestimating the scientific revolution and its technological consequences. But every scientific advance produces problems that can only be solved in the domain of social, or economic, or international relations. Weizmann himself was the prototype of the scientist—still rare—who sees his mission to lie

in the fields of social and human responsibilities, not in an ivory tower of academic detachment.

I notice that the Massachusetts Institute of Technology now has a Humanities Department as well as a Department for studying the problems of new States. I hope that Israel will transcend the ominous gulf which now divides the educated community into two specialised groups sharing only a minimum of common culture—like electrons moved less by attraction than by repulsion.

In short, we need to eradicate the scientific ignorance of the humanists—and the humanistic illiteracy of the scientists. I do not know if this can be done. Israel is as good a place as any to attempt a scientific humanism, which would reveal the common elements underlying all fields of knowledge.

### Curricular changes

*You hinted at changes in the secondary and primary curriculum. Can you say what they are?*

EBAN: I am still storing up my intentions—in time for the next school year. I can tell you what the main areas of discussion are:

- (1) Better results in English (or French) teaching. The Arabs have isolated us geographically; and we are now obligingly co-operating in our own



OUT OF THE IVORY TOWER  
*Less brooding over Shakespeare*

intellectual isolation, by becoming a monolingual culture. We cannot reconcile this with our international ambitions or our Jewish solidarities. In short, we need less brooding over Shakespeare and Moliere and more Israelis who can talk, and understand, and read an international language.

- (2) More basic science and mathematics at secondary levels. Otherwise our impressive Jerusalem-Rehovot-Haifa summit is going to melt away with the years for want of a successor generation.
- (3) A review of our Hebrew and Jewish teaching to stress its universal as well as its national content. Israel is at her best when her horizons are wide, when her gaze ranges over unlimited time and space. I also have a weakness for correct Hebrew instead of the few hundred words carelessly used which now form a staple diet for too much of our population.

There are thousands of people in Israel whose intellectual and spiritual potentialities are cramped and stunted through the lack of a sufficiently broad medium of expression. The fault lies not in the language—but in the marginal use now made of its resources.

### Support for the teachers

*Do you have any plans to change the organisational structure of the school system?*

EBAN: The main problem is the relation between primary and secondary school. At present, primary education

# THIS YEAR IN



# JERUSALEM...

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lasts for eight years (6 to 14), and secondary education for only four years (14 to 18), of which the first year is taken up with adaptation, and the second with examination fever—leaving only two “normal” years. The best thinking in Israel and abroad favours a different division between primary and secondary education: Not 8:4 as now but rather 6:6 or 6:3:3 with specialisation in the last three secondary years.

I am told that this is a perilous subject since the Teachers' Union likes the *status quo*. I am afraid that I cannot accept this without close scrutiny. At any rate, I am exploring the ground.

Many soldiers gain medals for gallantry in traversing mine fields, only to have it transpire that they had no idea that there were any mines there anyway. In the same spirit of blissful ministerial innovation I am going into places where I am told that angels fear to tread.

*Have you any news about the teachers' dispute?*

EBAN: In my seven months of office we have avoided strikes which have always seemed imminent. If the teachers prove their case in justice and equity I shall support them to the limit. They are, I think, close to proving the case for some increase in the wage of academically qualified teachers, most of whom are in

the secondary schools. This would involve some corresponding improvements for the primary school-teachers as well.

*Won't this injure the State's fiscal integrity?*

EBAN: Out of a total of nearly 1.8 billion Israel pounds, about 133 million (less than 8 per cent) goes to Education and Culture. If the education budget this year were 150 million pounds, as I wanted it to be, over 90 per cent of the regular budget would still be left for Israel's material needs. No other needs, except security, are more important than education. There is nothing to boast about in the proportion of Israel's resources now being devoted to her most fruitful asset—the mind and spirit of her people. I have not seen anything like the electric shock which galvanised the educational movement in America and Britain after the first Soviet Sputnik and rockets five years ago.

From the Minister's room in my Department, you can see the Jordan frontier about 500 yards away, and the Arab world stretching out beyond. Here we are two million surrounded by 50 million Arabs close at hand. It is all too easy to assert that we have qualitative superiority to compensate for their numerical weight. The point is that our numerical inferiority is incurable and,

indeed, bound to become more acute. (When we are 4 million, at the present rate of increase, they will be over 90 million). On the other hand—our qualitative superiority is not a gift from Heaven. It could conceivably be whittled away. Indeed our neighbours are making a purposeful effort in educational and scientific progress. What would our fate be if we were to become outstripped in quality as well as outnumbered! I really cannot understand how the educational concern can be subordinated to any other budgetary preoccupation. It surely comes first, together with security, in the hierarchy of our domestic needs.

#### More chances for non-Ashkenazim

*In a recent speech you said something about the prospect of a social explosion in Israel. Can you explain this?*

EBAN: Yes—I meant to describe the problem of our oriental communities. They are a half of our population—and yet they have only one Cabinet Minister out of 15; few members of the Knesset; no high officers; no Supreme Court Judges—and so on. This is surely bound to lead to an explosive situation. One definable section of the community monopolises the positions of responsibility and trust. The other is excluded not, of



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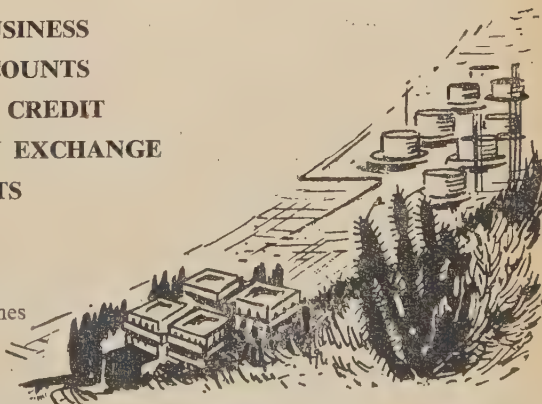
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course, by discrimination, but through the backward pull of its recent environment.

The solution lies in our schools and universities. But look at the position there. In the kindergartens the Sephardi element are 60 per cent of the total number of pupils. In primary schools—50 per cent. In the early classes of the post-primary schools 27 per cent. In the graduating classes of the post-primary schools 13 per cent. In the universities 5 per cent. Few of the non-Ashkenazim are climbing the whole ladder which leads to high opportunity and responsibility. Their home conditions compel them to fall behind.

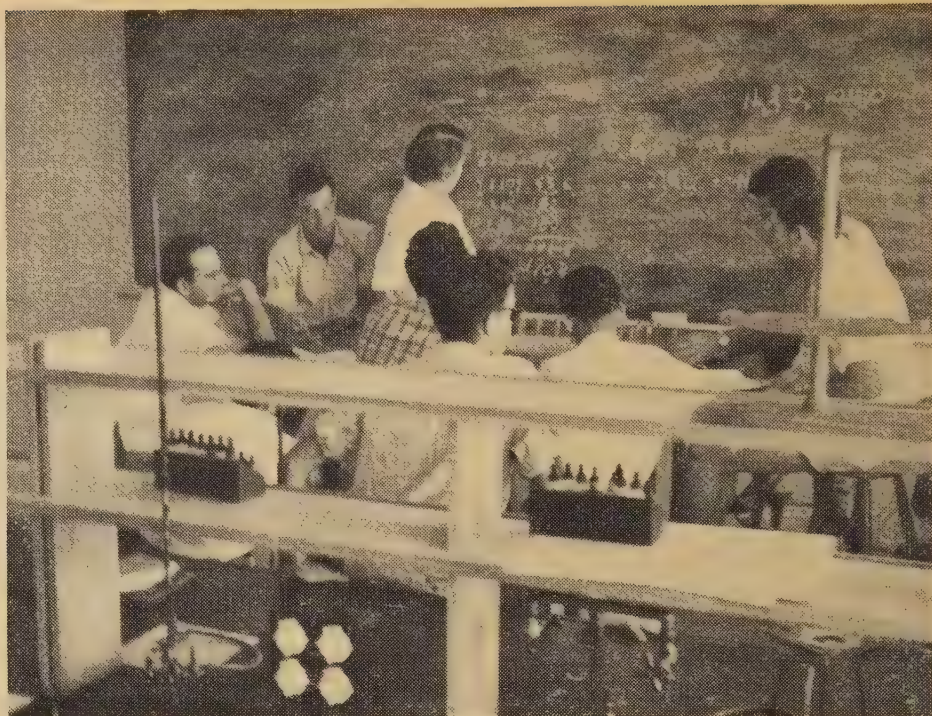
This is the chief social responsibility of this Ministry—to take special measures to broaden the stream of oriental immigrant children into the higher echelons of Israeli education. A good part of our budget increase this year is devoted to this task.

*You are also the Minister of Culture. Can you say something about that part of your responsibilities?*

EBAN: Not at the tail end of an interview. Perhaps you had better come and see me again one day!

I will only say that I am resolved to give this part of the Ministry's work a more central place than hitherto. The Israeli school cannot flourish if it is surrounded by a cultural wilderness. But that is precisely the situation in many places, especially in the new development towns. Our cultural resources are unduly concentrated in two or three urban centres. For a nation whose resurgence was envisaged primarily as an adventure of the mind and spirit, we have fallen into some very bad habits. The writer, artist, playwright, musician, lack their proper status, dignity and reward. There was a certain anti-intellectualism in pioneering Zionism—the idealisation of manual labour and a certain denigration of intellectual pursuits. This has no place in the modern age.

Then, again, there is a horrifying lack of the central condition for a democratic culture—namely a public library movement. Israeli audiences have been surprised when I have told them of the role of the public library movement in stimulating democratic thought in Britain, West Europe and America. Look how many biographies of democratic leaders take a turning point in late adolescence when a youth of little formal education finds the world of literature open before him; and by constant reading, becomes a person of richer imagination and moral insight, of finer wisdom and discrimination and sensitivity.



A WILDERNESS OUTSIDE?  
One Zionist concept that Eban wants changed

If you ask the Mayor of an Israeli city to take you to the Public Library he will wonder what you are talking about. I am thinking of presenting legislation, as in Britain and Europe, to stimulate the local authorities in this matter. Too many things in Israel are deemed to have priority over cultural and educational needs. Another Draconian measure which I am now contemplating is one to compel local authorities to recognise a playground as an organic part of a school building. We may never approach the Greek ideal of bodily perfection. But let us at least throw off the East European attitude to sport.

#### Too much archaeology?

*I see that you are asking for more appropriations for your Department of Antiquities. Do you share a view, that has been expressed, that the archaeological craze is overdone in Israel?*

EBAN: No. There is something profoundly moving in the spectacle of a people seeking its own lost roots. Alone of all the new emergent states, we have a continuous link with a rich and powerful historic culture. This helps to save us from superficiality. Provincialism is a concept of time as well as of space. A man who lives only in the present is doomed to provincialism.

*Will you end with a general statement on the place of education in Israel's life?*

EBAN: The point is to recognise the inexorable limits of Israel's material strength—and then give ourselves fully to the only realms of action in which the possibility of greatness lies open before us. These are the realms of spiritual, intellectual and scientific progress.

Every intellectual revolution which has ever stirred humanity to greatness has been a passionate protest against inert ideas. There are too many inert ideas in our community.

Israel needs the cleansing wind of an educational movement. Only thus shall we elevate the public discourse above its present levels. Can anyone doubt after the nightmare of recent weeks that we stand in need of such elevation?

We must live not within the narrow limits of our land-space or population, but within the vaster perspectives of history and conscience.

On my desk I have inscribed Whitehead's words:

*"In the conditions of modern life the rule is absolute: the race which does not value trained intelligence is doomed. Not all your heroism, not all your victories on land or at sea can move back the finger of fate. Today we maintain ourselves. Tomorrow science will have moved forward yet one more step—and there will be no appeal from the judgment which will then be pronounced on the uneducated."*



# BOOKS

## A SATIRICAL SAMUEL

COAT OF MANY COLOURS, by Edwin H. Samuel; 246 pp. (*Abelard-Schuman*) 16s.

Mr. Samuel, turning again to fiction, presents us with a collection of stories about ordinary, and not so ordinary people in Israel, South Africa, France, Indo-China, Denmark, Russia, England and the United States. Yet despite this wide range, the colours—or rather, the stories—do not clash. They form one whole, are interwoven, by being all well-written and deeply perceptive of the central character's personality and the society in which he lives.

A strong vein of irony and satire runs through them all, emerging most strongly in *Golden Fleece*, which deals with Jewish fund-raising in the United States. It is set in the 1970's when the fund-raisers have become more—much more—important than the institutions and leaders of the charities for which they "fleece." All top fund-raisers belong to the Golden Fleece Club and each wears as an emblem a tiny pair of golden shears in his button-hole. The Club President wears the Golden Shears Studded with Diamonds and the Fund-Raiser of the Year reigns for twelve months as "Shepherd of Israel." The hero of the story is the most ruthless fleecer of them all, who collects for a non-existent institution in Israel. We witness his rise to power, his decline and his rehabilitation. The author makes one laugh at this story, but also think.

Another story, is strangely topical. It concerns two Israeli cabinet ministers who, because of the personal feud between them, bring down the government. Although they share the same views about a certain vital issue they vote on opposite sides, the only reason being their personal dislike for one another.

In those stories where the author's vitriolic wit, or cynicism, or razor-edged satire—or all three combined—are not in evidence, he portrays in a heart-warming fashion the completely understandable follies, gropings and mistakes made by adults when they are up-rooted from the environment of their childhood and formative years and find themselves in a society which—to them—is, at first, a terrifyingly alien one. There is one more thing to be admired in this collection besides the author's perception and understanding of human nature, and that is the tremendous range of characters and

countries which he writes about and obviously knows well.

But then Edwin H. Samuel was born in London and lived and held university appointments in America, France and South Africa. He served in the Palestine Administration from 1920-48 and is now Principal of the Public Administration Institute in Israel and a lecturer on Political Science at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem—his permanent home.

Adam Lynford

## BOOKS IN BRIEF

THE CONSCIENCE OF THE RICH, by C. P. Snow; 333 pp.; (*Penguin Books*) 3s.6d.

Sir Charles Snow's epic story of a father-son conflict in the upper reaches of old-established Anglo-Jewry. The problem is an old one. The setting, for most of us, new. Not for those who dislike Galsworthy.

CONGO DISASTER, by Colin Legum; 174 pp.; (*Penguin Special*) 2s.6d.

Mr. Legum's useful book takes us as far as October, 1960. Particularly valuable is examination of Ghana's role in the developing crisis, though, Guinea apart, he seems unable to grasp Russia's influence with some of the African states.

A HISTORY OF MODERN FRANCE, Volume 2: 1799-1945, by Alfred Cobban; 346 pp., chronological table, bibliography, index; (*Pelican Books*) 5s.

Professor Cobban, despite the grandiose title given to his two-volume work, makes no pretence other than that it is an introduction to the subject for the general reader—hence the rather extensive list of suggested "further reading." It is a pity that he could not find more than 40 pages for the period from 1914 to 1945. For the younger student in search of enlightenment, these are the years of greatest mystery, confounded even more by the partisan memoirs of ageing statesmen.

ISRAEL, photographs A. D. Arieli, text Erich Lüth; 61 pp.; (*Wilhelm Andermann, Munich*; available from *Barmerlea Book Sales, 10 Bayley Street, W.C.1*) 18s.6d.

There have been better picture books about Israel. This one is noteworthy for the fact that it is a German production (very popular in Germany, say the publishers) and carries a lengthy introduction by the almost saintly Erich Lüth, founder of the Hamburg Society for Christian-Jewish Co-operation, a staunch advocate of German reparation, in every sense, to the Jewish people.

G.D.P.

# LETTER

## MIKARDO'S QUESTION ANSWERED

Sir,—I would not like to argue with Mr. Mikardo concerning the correct principles of wage policy in Britain or countries similarly placed (*see J.O., January 20*). As regards Israel, however, there are two factors which should prevent an approach to wages based on his premises.

The first is that the country's economy needs rapid development and an improvement in the trade balance, both being objectives not brought nearer when every increment in output *per capita* is eaten by higher real wages *per capita*. The second is that, unlike most countries, once the Israel labour movement decides on a wage policy, that policy is almost always implemented. The employers have hardly any bargaining power under present circumstances.

In other words, if the labour movement wants rapid development and an export expansion leading to a better trade balance (and there are many in it who do want this), it must show restraint in the field of its wage demands. Perhaps this answers Mr. Mikardo's "Ma nishtanah?"

Yohanan Ramati

Jerusalem.

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# ISRAELI ENTERPRISE

*A Jewish Observer — Israel Periodicals Panorama*

## PRIVATE INVESTORS TAKE OVER

### FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS SOLD BY GOVERNMENT

Fertilisers and Chemicals Ltd. of Haifa, originally founded by private enterprise and then taken over by the Israeli Government in exchange for the additional capital needed for expansion, is to be returned to private ownership. This was decided on at last Sunday's Cabinet meeting, where the step was recommended by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol of Mapai. Mapam Minister of Development Mordecai Bentov opposed the decision, but was overruled.

Between I£17 and I£20 million of the I£31 million worth of the company's shares and debentures will be taken over at par by the Israel Investors' Corporation, headed by American Sam Rothberg. A further I£3 million approximately will be sold to other private investors. The rest, about a quarter of the total, or I£7½ million, will remain in the hands of the Government and the agricultural co-operatives.

The price of fertilisers will still be controlled by the Government, although the company will lose its subsidy. In addition to marketing fertilisers, on which the Government is prepared to allow seven per cent profit, the company will increase the range of chemicals it at present manufactures in an effort to increase its overseas as well as its local sales.

## SHARE MARKET ON THE UP AND UP

### MOST MONEY IN PROPERTY

According to experts here, industrial stocks and shares today are a sound investment for the small investor, domestic

or foreign. Quotations on the local market more than doubled during 1960, and stand on an average over three times as high as in 1959, though it must be remembered that the market is limited.

According to Joseph Voet of the Union Bank, the upward trend is due both to the generally improved economic climate and to the fact that the Government has realised the need to obtain significant

the 25 per cent tax maximum, but all new share issues have been included since the middle of last year. The effect has been that people in Israel earning high salaries today pay far more in taxes than those who live off their investments.

Voet sees a further reason for the upward trend in the market in the establishment of such foreign investment companies as Anglo-Israel Securities Ltd. which, with nearly £1 million to spend, has had a decisive influence on a market which is small enough to react to the influx of capital sums of this kind.

Despite this favourable trend, however, local small investors have been rather



DEVELOPING SAFED

*The small investor preferred bricks and mortar for his money*

amounts of capital from savings at home and investors abroad.

For example, the tax payable on new shares, which is deductible from dividends, is limited to 25 per cent, a concession Voet considers unique, especially in a country with a predominantly labour government. The concession applies even where the holder is in a high income bracket, so that a 10 per cent dividend provides a 7½ per cent income.

**Investors gain:** Formerly, only holders of Government debentures qualified for

slow to respond, even though there are such "gilt-edged" securities available as dollar-linked or cost-of-living-linked bonds.

**No savings habit:** The reason for this, Voet believes, lies largely in the fact that the country is as yet too young to have developed the habit of saving, and that many potential small investors have gone through the unhappy experience of losing their saving abroad and arriving here when inflation was at its highest.

Property appeared to be a much safer investment then, and although there is today a gradual shift away from it to bonds and shares, investment in property is still overwhelmingly predominant. This was normal in all countries changing from an agricultural to an industrial society, said Voet, and was not confined to Israel. Faith in securities rose in proportion to the sound growth of industry.

Turning to the foreign small investor wishing to invest in Israel, Voet suggested various possibilities. The safest invest-

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	C.O.L. BONDS	104.8	104.9	
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ment is foreign currency bank deposits. Money deposited for one year or more, earns a 6 per cent tax-free dividend, payable in foreign currency.

**Official exchange rate:** If the foreign investor wishes to invest in shares or bonds, he will be compelled to convert at the official rate of exchange of £5.04 to the £ sterling and will naturally run all the risks of the market.

However, in an expanding economy the risks may not be so great. The dividends may well be higher too, and will be free of tax for the first eight years, and transferable at the official rate of exchange. When he sells, the investor may take out his proceeds at the official rate as well.

Investments from blocked accounts carry a rate of exchange 16 per cent lower, and are not tax-free. They carry a 25 per cent withholding tax on dividends, which are payable at the official rate. Proceeds, from the sale of shares are, on the other hand, payable at blocked account rates. The foreign small investor with, say £1,000 or more to invest, thus has a number of opportunities of investing his savings in Israel, with sound returns.

**Foreign confidence a help:** It is not unlikely that an increase in the number of small foreign investors in the local

market will lead to a similar increase in local investment. As Voet put it: "Nothing succeeds like success", and the confidence of foreigners in the local market will undoubtedly strengthen Israelis' own faith in their industrial economy.

*ISRAELI ENTERPRISE is prepared by the Jewish Observer—Israel Periodicals, 13 Montefiore Street, Tel Aviv. Phone: 65882 and 63303.*

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#### LITERARY EVENT

A literary evening to mark the publication of André Schwarz-Bart's great novel "The Last of the Just".

Speakers: **Walter Allen**, Literary Editor of the "New Statesman"

**Maurice Edelman, M.P.**

**Emanuel Litvinoff**

**Jacob Sonntag**, Editor of the "Jewish Quarterly"

Readings from the novel by Martin Miller

Monday, 20th February, 7.30 p.m.

French Institute, Queensberry Place, S.W.7  
near South Kensington Underground Station

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 18

**THE SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL** of the Zionist Federation and the Hon. Officers of the Shepherds Bush, Fulham and District Synagogue invite all to a M'Lava Malka at the Hyman Fisher Hall, 1a Poplar Grove, W.6. Speaker: Rabbi E. Newman, Minister of Golders Green Synagogue. Rev. A. M. Lev, accompanied by Mrs. Handel Rosen will render liturgical musical items. In the Chair: Rev. I. L. Abrams, Minister of the Congregation. No Appeal. Admission Free. Refreshments, 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21

**EDGWARE ZIONIST SOCIETY.** Film show "The Juggler" (U) featuring Kirk Douglas. Rosh Pinah School, Mowbray Road, Edgware. 8.15 p.m.

**THEODOR HERZL SOCIETY.** "Israel." Address by Mr. Emil J. Speyer, 57 Eton Ave., N.W.3. 8.15 p.m.

Wednesday, February 22

**TOTTENHAM & DISTRICT Z.S.** Preview of latest Israel films, Fenton Hall, 366a High Road, N.17. Speaker: Mr. Donald Silk, 8.30 p.m.

**FINCHLEY ZIONIST SOCIETY.** Farewell Reception to Mr. Woolf Perry and Mr. J. Wolfen, prior to their Aliyah. 18 Haslemere Gasrdens, N.3 (by courtesy of Mr. & Mrs. Miller). 8.15 p.m.

Tuesday, February 28

**MAPAM OPEN FORUM.** 37 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6. P. Merhav will speak on "The Ben-Gurion-Lavon Affair and the Threat to Israel's Democracy". All welcome, 8 p.m.

#### BROADCASTS FROM ISRAEL

**Fri. 17th February:** 20.15 The News, 20.25 Our Correspondent Reports, 20.30 Sabbath Programme.

**Sat. 18th February:** 20.15 The News, 20.25 Editorial Opinion, 20.35 Cantorial Music.

**Sun. 19th February:** 20.15 The News, 20.25 The Jews of Yemen, 20.40 In the Jewish World.

**Mon. 20th February:** 20.15 The News, 20.25 Newsreel, 20.35 Music: Round the Campfire.

**Tues. 21st February:** 20.15 The News, 20.25 Commentary, 20.30 Abba Eban Speaks.

**Wed. 22nd February:** 20.15 The News, 20.25 "In the News", 20.35 Music.

**Thurs. 23rd February:** 20.15 The News, 20.25 The Lively Arts: A Monthly Magazine Programme, 20.35 Easy Weekly Conversation.

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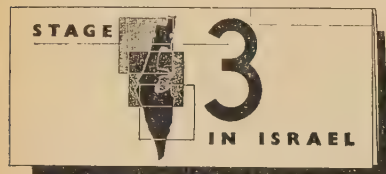
# JPA-JNF NEWS

Prepared by JPA/JNF Public Relations Department, Furnival House, 14 High Holborn, W.C.1. Chancery 5986/7

## CAMPAIGN INAUGURAL TOMORROW: A BRIEF FOR THE MAN IN THE FIELD

Tomorrow evening 35-years-old Major-General Ezer Weizmann will begin his J.P.A. campaign tour, and we welcome him especially because of the name he bears, and the generation he represents. He undertakes a mission not generally given to a serving military officer, and it is indicative of the unique relationship existing between Israel and world Jewry that we find it so appropriate for the Commander of the Air Force to come and help us in an appeal whose objective is the integration of new citizens.

J.P.A. campaigning is not merely a matter of large-scale community dinners and spectacular donations. Its success is based upon the dogged perseverance of hundreds of local workers who need to be fortified by the facts, answer questions, and turn a small contribution into a bigger one. For this reason we give here the broad outlines of the 1961 platform.



## NO CRISIS; NO NERVOUS TENSION; NO PANIC

As in 1960, the campaign this year will not use slogans of emergency or crisis. It is based upon an evaluation of Israel's long-term social and economic needs. What are they? Israel is a small country and all its citizens must be fully and profitably employed. This means that every economic unit must be made viable—utilising all its resources and paying its own way. This has already been achieved by the old-established settlements, whatever their social pattern. But those established since 1948 require the final "shot in-the-arm" to make them efficient. On them live 130,000 people who cannot be expected to hold out indefinitely in the face of grave shortages of live-stock and equipment.

In addition, there are large numbers of citizens still not enjoying all the advantages of living in Israel. Normal social and welfare services which the rest of us

take for granted are not available to them: adequate housing, hospitals, recreation centres, schools.

## NO COMPULSION; JUST A MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

Therefore the spirit of this campaign should be expressed in the idea: "We helped to bring them to Israel. We must see their absorption through." The establishment of Israel as a centre of Jewish rescue concentrated this operation in one place, and within a brief span of time. The same refugees would have been an obligation to Jewry if Israel had not been created and they would have been dispersed to other countries—assuming they would have received visas. We should not forget that Israel has ended the "bottomless pit" type of Jewish charity which characterised our relief operations in the past.

## ANY PROGRESS IN 12 MONTHS

A great deal. One year ago there were 60,000 in the ma'aborot. Today the number has been reduced by one-third. It has cost nearly £10 million in sterling. We want to tear down the rest of these shanty-towns this year, or at any rate, by the end of 1962.

## WHAT ABOUT MOROCCO?

We do not intend to exploit the unhappiness of the Jewish citizens of any country, and we must be wary of the dangers of over-simplification. You have read the facts on Morocco in the Press. Every Jew will draw his own conclusions from this. But we must be prepared. In previous years, Moroccan Jews were allowed to come to Israel and you will find them happily established in every part of the country. The J.P.A. is not a political organisation but a voluntary body with a specific task to do in association with the government of Israel and the Jewish Agency. When they are ready to invite our help, we must be ready to give it.

Whatever happens in Morocco, at least 30,000 immigrants will arrive in Israel during this year.

## THE NEGEV

### BECKONS

Israel's farm economy must be in good shape to open up new areas for development, thus easing the problem of absorbing future immigrants.

This brings us to the Negev, which forms most of southern Israel and is rich in mineral and chemical resources. What is more, it has a vast potential as farmland. Its space and resources could support tens of thousands of new immigrants. The redevelopment of the Negev is being held back only by lack of water, people and money.

But slowly the work is being done. Recently, it was announced that a new regional development scheme for the Negev is being considered, to be known as Bessor. It will reach from just below Beersheba to the Chalutza Dunes, above Revivim.

Because the development is still in its earliest planning stage, no estimate is available of the number of farm villages it will contain, its expected population, or its cost. However, Lachish, which is now five years old, contains 13,000 persons living in 52 villages and rural centres, and 8,000 inhabitants in its central city of Kiryat Gat. The Lachish development cost was about £22 millions sterling.

## HOW LONG WILL

### THIS WORK GO ON?

The full consolidation of Israel carries with it the need for economic independence—at least as far as any country today is economically independent. Israel is two-thirds of the way there. In the space of 13 years the framework has been erected and an additional million people have been placed in nearly 500 villages and towns. There was a remarkable expansion of housing and the reclamation of derelict land that extended to thousands of acres.

The final effort will involve great capital investment, even without taking such imponderables into consideration as further waves of immigrations, political crisis and Middle East unrest. Some foreign students of the Israel economy have complained of the lack of planning. But there can be no planning in the Jewish situation, for every hope fulfilled means a plan made out of date.



# J P A - J N F NEWS

## CAMPAIGNING IN THE SMALL COMMUNITIES

### "WORLD'S CHEAPEST FUND-RAISING MOVEMENT"

Problems facing J.P.A. campaigners in the smaller districts on the outskirts of London were fully ventilated at this year's conference of the Combined South-East-West committees, which took place at the Trocadero Restaurant last Wednesday. Woolf Perry, chairman of the Zionist Federation and vice-president of the group, presided in the absence through illness of Ald. H. A. Leon.

Delegates drew a sombre picture of winter foot-slogging in the outer suburbs, where families were dispersed and isolated, did not participate actively in communal life and were mostly of modest means. Yet 40 per cent out of all known Jewish families in the 33 localities covered by the combined group were subscribers—the average contribution being £9. The exact figures: £31,475 contributed to general appeal; £6,939 to Kol Nidre appeal; 4,139 subscribers in all.

The guest speaker was J.P.A. executive director Harry Shine. He told the conference that despite the obligation of the administrative committee to concentrate on the large donors, it fully appreciated the need to keep a sense of proportion. "Sometimes the contributor who gives us £100 can afford a thousand, and the man or woman who sends in a guinea is making a real sacrifice!"

**After 43 years:** Looking benignly at the young people around him, Mr. Shine

had this to say about his 43 years in the fund-raising movement: "There is no more satisfying career for a young man to adopt. He will be enriched in spirit, if not in material wealth. He is participating in an exciting experience where a people are being transformed and serious problems of nation-building are his stock-in-trade." The J.P.A. was the cheapest fund-raising organisation in the world. In 1961 it gathered in £200,000 more than in the previous year, yet reduced its total expenditure by one-twelfth to 5½ per cent. It was a record to make them all proud of the cause they served.

In a reference to their chairman, who will be going on aliyah in the first week of April, he described Woolf Perry as a man who had willingly chosen to live in Israel while still young enough to help the country and himself. "Mr. Perry has worked in the movement at a cost which very few among the Jewish public realise. He will prove a great asset to the Yishuv." The speaker also had praise for Ralph Joseph, the organising secretary of the Combined committees.

**Education problem:** The debate revealed that the J.P.A. leader in the small community had a difficult problem of education on his hands. And his work was not made any the lighter, as Mr. Abrahams of Ilford pointed out, by arranging expensive tours to Israel. These



Ealing delegates J. Shestopal, M. Small and L. Wolf

should be modestly-priced, to bear some relation to the income level of prospective participants. Mr. Shestopal of Ealing considered it uneconomic and time-wasting to run after every minute contribution. A committee, he thought, should concentrate on the more substantial prospects. Mr. Ostrow (Brixton) asked for a better pooling of experience, while Mr. Symons of Sutton maintained that they had to communicate a sense of excitement to their public. He believed greater use could be made of the synagogue, so that J.P.A.—"the most satisfying of all communal activities"—became part and parcel of their daily lives.

### TEACHERS CONFERENCE

Rev. R. Brookes is the chairman of a J.N.F. Education committee in Birmingham under whose auspices a teachers conference took place recently.

Following addresses by David Barkar and Moshe Davis, a discussion ensued on the brightening of Hebrew education in the area by the utilisation of J.N.F. teaching aids and the holding of a children's Ulpan in the school holidays.

### NEW COMMISSION

A new Commission has been formed in the Bayswater and Notting Hill area under the chairmanship of S. Halpern. Other officers are Mrs. W. Marks, vice-chairman; and Miss M. Lee, hon. secretary.

Activities began last week with a Tu b'Shvat celebration at which the guest speaker was Ram Haviv.



Conference group showing Mr. and Mrs. H. Shine, Mr. and Mrs. C. Symons and Woolf Perry



# JPA - JNF NEWS

## "WATER PLAN GOES FORWARD" — MIRON

"Israel will not be deterred from using waters within her territory for her own development projects, including the fertilisation of the Negev," Arieh Miron told a St. John's Wood audience on Saturday. The Israel Minister was addressing the community's annual J.P.A. dinner. "We are proceeding on the assumption that one day a broader scheme for the utilisation of Middle East water resources will go forward," Mr. Miron went on, "so we are unmoved by threats of interference."

**Investment:** Other subjects touched upon in a comprehensive review of Israel's economic position were progress in exports (now 50 per cent of imports) and the steep rise in overseas investment. Last year more than a hundred million dollars was invested from Jewish and non-Jewish sources, nearly a quarter of all overseas investment capital since the State's establishment.

The gathering was welcomed by Abe Wix, president of the St. John's Wood committee, while joint-chairmen David Caplan was in the chair. He introduced Rosser Chinn, who conducted an appeal that brought in £25,000 to launch the 1961 campaign in this area.

The J.N.F. president, referring to Mr. Miron's analysis of the import-export situation, claimed that Israel's principal import remained the same as in 1948: people. He begged his hearers not to wait for "the fire to start". Israel had to maintain a state of preparedness, and was already involved in a 1961 immigration programme that, at current reckoning,



With D. Manuel (centre) are H. Arnold and P. Renton.

would exceed 30,000 newcomers.

**A record:** This record St. John's Wood launching was another personal triumph for Mrs. Margot Salomon, a fact fully recognised by all the speakers, including Harry Shine, who made a platform appearance in his dual capacity as executive-director of the J.P.A. and Warden of St. John's Wood Synagogue.

Toasts were proposed by S. M. Bloch and Mrs. Alec Fishberg, and a telegram of greeting from M. V. Jacobs, the other joint-chairman who is abroad, was read.

Last year St. John's Wood raised £30,000, making this district the best London committee after Hampstead Garden Suburb. If the momentum of last week's launching is maintained, it may well regain the lead from its northern neighbour and rival.

## LEEDS ROUND-UP

A consistently-rising trend in income was reported by joint treasurer P. Abrahams at a meeting of the Leeds J.P.A. committee on February 8, when B. C. Gillinson took the chair in the absence through illness of John Ellis.

A total of £67,115 was received from 2,000 contributors, the highest ever in this city with the exception of the Sinai year. An executive was elected, which unfortunately excludes George Stross, previously joint treasurer, who has resigned because of ill health.

1961 officers: President and chairman, J. Ellis; vice-presidents, J. Collier, P. S. Ellis; vice-chairmen, B. C. Gillinson, J.P., Cllr. B. Lyons, J.P., C. Sumrie; joint hon. treasurers, P. L. Abrahams, A. Ziff; joint hon. secretaries, J. Berwin, D. Simon; chairman, organising committee, E. Ziff, J.P.; chairmen, canvassing committee, H. Baker, H. Brown; hon. life president, M. Brostoff; organising secretary, J. Biron.

**Fellowships:** Three of the J.N.F. Fellowships in Leeds held meetings recently, to hear lectures by experts on various subjects and plan their participation in the Blue and White Bazaar.

In the case of the fourth Fellowship, an annual general meeting took place that saw the election of the following officers: Chairman, H. Rapaport; vice-chairmen, Dr. A. M. Brill, R. L. Morris; hon. treasurer, L. Crann; social secretary, Mrs. K. Kilstock; hon. secretary, M. M. Cohen.

This group proposes to hold a reception and dinner when the American play "The Tenth Man" comes to Leeds prior to its London opening. David Kossoff is the star and has been invited to be the guest of honour.

## IN THE GOLDEN BOOK

Bernard Maisel, by the Blue and White Ball committee, in recognition of his inspired leadership; Mr. and Mrs. S. Marks on the occasion of their grandson's barmitzvah, by the Brighton and Hove J.P.A. and J.N.F. Committees; Miss Carla Wilks, by the Middlesbrough Ladies Zionist Society.

## TREE INSCRIPTIONS

Thirteen trees in the name of Mrs. C. B. Sandler on the occasion of the barmitzvah of her son Michael Stephen by the Blanche Group; 13 trees in the name of Martin Morris Melzack on the occasion of his barmitzvah by his parents.



Receiving line: Mr. and Mrs. Wix, Mr. and Mrs. Miron, Mr. and Mrs. Caplan.



# J P A - J N F NEWS

## AMBASSADOR IN LIVERPOOL

The Israel Ambassador visited Liverpool last week to join local J.P.A. workers in a preliminary event which raises the curtain on the 1961 effort on Merseyside.

Mr. Lourie attended a reception at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Samuels, at which Leo Levy presided. Perhaps with the "Lavon affair" in mind, the Ambassador had something to say about political problems in Israel. If recent events proved anything, they vindicated Israel as a strong democracy, he maintained. But it was a democracy whose public opinion extended much further than the boundaries of the State. In fact, the Jews of the world had their effect upon deeds in Israel, and in consequence they bore some responsibility for the character of the social and economic fabric of the country.

The gathering, of some 60 of Liverpool's leading Jewish citizens, responded in the spirit with which these observations were given. It subscribed a sum of £20,000, which is considerably in excess of what was raised at a similar event last year.

In addition to Mr. Samuels and Mr. Levy, Philip Jacobs addressed the meeting.

## A WEEK IN APRIL FOR YOUTH

Youth week will this year take place from April 23-30, and will see all members of Younger Commissions on a door-to-door tree-planting canvass.

The date was announced at an executive meeting of Younger J.N.F. Commissions which took place at the end of January. More information was given on the Mount Meron project. It will involve these junior groups in a commitment to raise £80,000 within three years.

Several districts of London, and not a few provincial towns, are as yet without Younger Commissions. An attack is being made upon them, and Younger Commission officers would especially like to hear from those who can help with the creation of Commissions in Hampstead, Ealing, Southgate, Golders Green and South London, and Cardiff, Manchester, Hull and Edinburgh.

A national conference of Younger J.N.F. Commissions has been called for March 11-12 in Brighton.

## DUAL CELEBRATION

West Ham J.N.F. Commission's annual Dinner and Ball had a double Barmitzvah significance this year, for the Commission itself was founded, like the State of Israel, in 1948.

Honorary secretary H. Angel informs us that the event featured many attractive new ideas. The hosts were J. Wolff, a former West Ham chairman and now honorary president, and Mrs. Wolff, while Charles Molen was in charge of the evening's proceedings.

There was an appeal for trees for the Barmitzvah Forest by Victor Schaverien and as a result, the total proceeds of the dinner exceeded £1,500. Full marks again to A. Weinberg, West Ham's capable functions chairman.

## THIS WEEK'S BEST BOXES

**N. LONDON:** Mrs. L. Cohen, c/o 17 Vivian Way, N.2, £8.5.0. Mr. G. Kaye, 5 Harford Walk, N.2, £6.1.0. Mrs. Marcus, 1 Chalgrove Gardens, N.3, £4.1.5. Mrs. Shoot, 8 Brownlow Court, Lyttleton Road, N.2, £3.3.0. Mrs. Maimie Brickman & Family, 57 Brim Hill, N.2, £3.1.7. Mr. Zang, 6 Chessington Lodge, Chessington Avenue, N.3, £2.19.0. Mr. Hoffman, 17 Vivian Way, N.2, £2.7.8. Mr. Goldberg, 'Sylvilla', 19 Parklands Drive, N.3, £2.3.9. Mr. and Mrs. Witton, 95 Hendon Lane, N.3, £2.0.0. Mrs. Frankel, 12 Greenhalgh Walk, N.2, £2.0.0.

**E. LONDON:** Mr. A. Kutner, 67 Ickburgh Road, E.5, £5.4.0. Mrs. Hofman, 116 High Street, E.17, £4.10.0. Mr. J. Lotsky, (Sec.) East End Friendly Loan Society, 22 Osborne Street, E.1, £3.0.0. Mrs. R. Yanofsky, 79 Whitechapel Road, E.1, £2.14.9. Mr. D. Kitchenoff, 39 Carisbrooke Road, E.17, £2.10.0. Mr. Shapero, 221 Forest Road, E.17, £2.10.0. Mrs. Stern, 90 Nightingale Road, E.5, £2.6.0. Mrs. Phillips, 5 Birchington House, Pembury Road, E.5, £2.5.0. Mr. Prager, 13 Cambridge Heath Road, E.1, £2.0.0.

**E.C. LONDON:** Mr. Simmonds, 1 Houndsditch, E.C.3, £7.10.0. Mr. Rosen, c/o Myers and Co., 437 St. John Street, E.C.1, £4.2.5. Mrs. B. Prevezer, 11/12 St. Botolph Row, E.C.3, £3.2.9. Messrs. Elco Clocks & Watches Ltd., 51 Hatton Garden, E.C.1, £3.0.0. The Domino Team, c/o Scheiner and Woolf, Worcester House, Vintners Place, Upper Thames Street, E.C.4, £2.6.0.

**N.W. LONDON:** Mr. Abram, 13 Armitage Road, N.W.11, £10.10.0. Mr. G. Goodman, 18 Northgate, Prince Albert Road, N.W.8, £6.10.0. Mrs. E. Brainos, 11 Eyre Court, Finchley Road, N.W.8, £5.0.0. Mr. M. Clements, 35 Acacia Road, N.W.8, £3.12.6. Mr. and Mrs. West, 23 Viceroy Court, Prince Albert Road, N.W.8, £3.2.0. Mr. B. Brahmans, 1 Wellington Court, Wellington Road, N.W.8, £3.0.0. Mr. H. M. Stone, 83 Avenue Road, N.W.8, £3.0.0. Mrs. A. Modlinger, 2 St. Stephens Close, N.W.8, £3.0.0. Mr. H. Epstein, 51 Northgate, Prince Albert Road, N.W.8, £2.19.0. Mrs. Davis, 61 Boydell Court, St. Johns Wood Park Road, N.W.8, £2.16.0. Mr. B. Goodman, 29 Eyre Court, Finchley Road, N.W.8, £2.10.0. Mrs. Florin, 62 Boydell Court, St. Johns Wood Park Road, N.W.8, £2.5.6. Mrs. I. Albert, 26 Viceroy Court, Prince Albert Road, N.W.8, £2.2.0. Mr. and Mrs. J. Quint, 3 Wellington Court, Wellington Road, N.W.8, £2.0.0. Mr. Ogus, 33 Wellington Court, Wellington Road, N.W.8, £2.0.0. Mr. Sam Beckman, 4 Strathmore Court, Park Road, N.W.8, £2.0.0. Mr. Norden, 3 Bentinck Close, N.W.8, £2.0.0. Mrs. M. A. Webber, 45 Viceroy Court, Prince Albert Road, N.W.8, £2.0.0. Mr. Sam Levine, 216 Hendon Way, N.W.4, £2.0.0. Bettina, 401 Hendon Way, N.W.4, £2.0.0.

**GLASGOW:** Dr. S. Lazarus, 48 Berkeley Street, C.3, £2.2.0.

**NEWTON MEARNS:** Mr. L. Gerber, 31 Beech Avenue, £2.0.0.

**NORTHAMPTON:** Mr. and Mrs. W. Aber, £2.0.0.

**SHEFFIELD:** Mr. L. Picker, Den Bank Drive, £10.0.0. Mr. H. Cohen, 437 Redmines Road, 10, £5.5.0.

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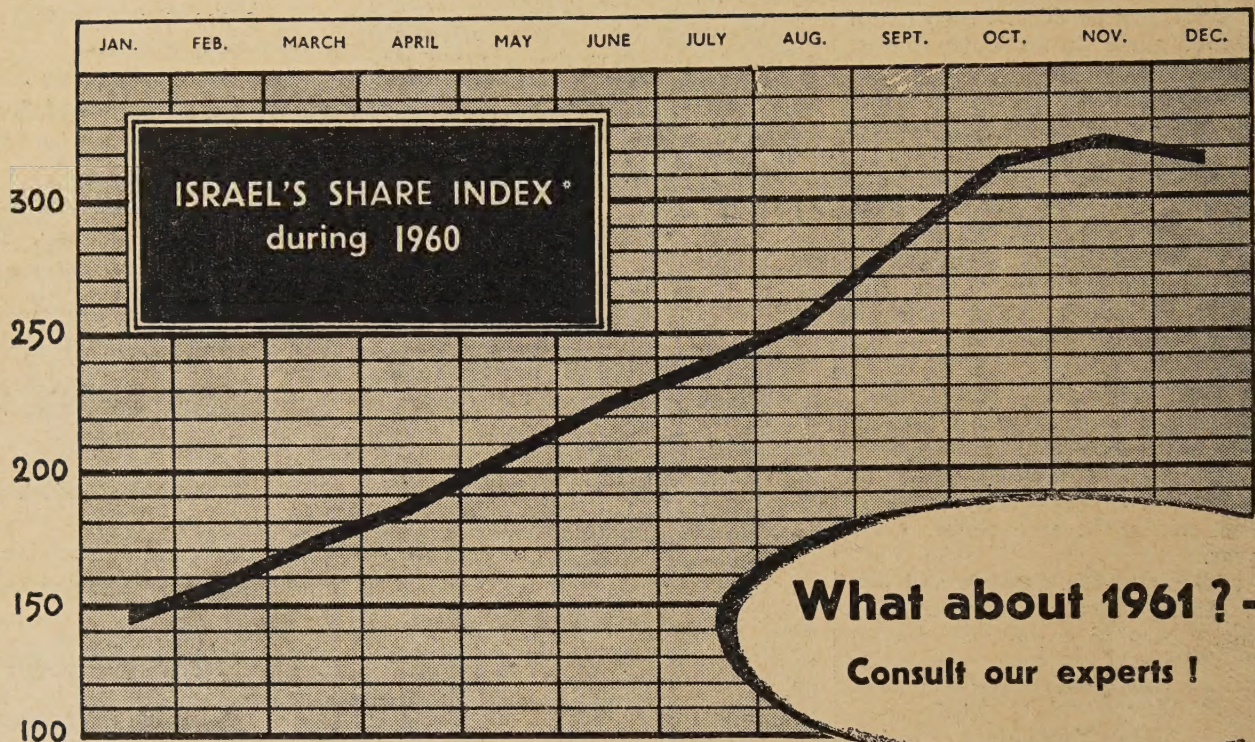
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